

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/667,630

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging his claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of a certified copy of the priority document.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 have been objected to for informalities. Applicant has amended these claims.

The Examiner has asserted that it was not clear in claim 11 what “a server integrated into the circuits of the service provider” means. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, a site 25, which is an integrated part of service provider circuits 13, causes a program 27 to switch circuits 17 (Specification, page 8, the first full paragraph). Accordingly, when read in light of the specification, the limitations of claim 11 are clear.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,614,783 to Sonesh et al., in view of USP 6,377,570 to Vaziri et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, and requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the following arguments.

The Examiner has agreed that Sonesh does not disclose switching circuits for connecting a telephone to an Internet connection terminal as recited in independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 10. However, the Examiner has asserted that Vaziri discloses the feature that Sonesh lacks. The Examiner then combines Sonesh and Vaziri, and rejects the claims of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and asserts that the Examiner’s combination of the prior art is improper.

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The purpose of the present application is to avoid using with an Internet connection terminal a sound card for digitizing and compressing voice signals (Specification, page 4, the first full paragraph). However, both Sonesh and Vaziri use means for digitizing voice signals in Internet connection terminals. In Sonesh, when a caller, such as 101 and 105, is equipped with both a computer 101 and a telephone headset 102, it accesses a multimedia automatic call distribution system (MMACD) 110 either via a modem and PSTN 111 or via data network 112 (Sonesh, col. 7, lines 18-21). Skilled artisans would appreciate that voice signals output by the computer 101 must be digital signals, and there must be means in the computer 101 for digitizing analog voice signals from the telephone headset 102. In Vaziri, as shown in Fig. 2, the Internet switching box (ISB) includes a vocoder 204, which provides low bit rate voice compression and decompression. Accordingly, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Sonesh and Vaziri, both of which use means for digitizing and compressing voice signals in an Internet connection terminal, to obtain the claimed inventions of the present application.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that a skilled artisan were to combine Sonesh and Vaziri, the combination would not result in Applicant's claimed inventions. Each of the independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 of the present application recites switching circuits operating in accordance with switching instructions from the Internet. The Examiner has agreed that Sonesh fails to disclose the recited switching circuits, but has asserted that a switching box 210 of Vaziri teaches the switching circuits. However, a caller in Vaziri switches the switching box 210 when he/she agrees with the called party, through a call over PSTN, to have an Internet telephone conversation (Vaziri, Abstract; col. 3, lines 50-54; and col. 4, lines 19-26). Accordingly, Vaziri

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does not teach or suggest switching instructions from the Internet, or operating switching circuits in accordance with the switching instructions from the Internet.

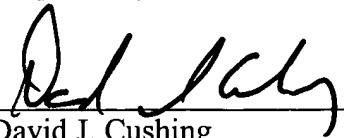
None of other cited references supplies deficiencies of Sonesh and Vaziri.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are patentable. Dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, and 11-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on the patentable independent claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28703

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE

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